

"Dorothy Walton" House  
221 East Zaragoza Street  
Pensacola  
Escambia County  
Florida

HABS No. FLA-205

HABS  
FLA  
17-PENSA  
11-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

## "DOROTHY WALTON" HOUSE

HABS  
FLA  
17-PENSA  
11-

Location: 221 East Zaragoza Street, Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida. The house is located on the south side of Zaragoza Street near the intersection of Adams Street. It was originally located at 137 West Romana Street near the southeast corner of Romana and Barcelona Streets.

Present Owner: Historic Pensacola Preservation Board of Trustees

Present Occupant: Pensacola Historic Preservation Society

Present Use: House museum

Statement of Significance: This structure is an excellent example of the raised wood frame cottage typical of the Gulf of Mexico coast. Its inset porches, wide central hallway, double doors and large window openings provide another variation of a house well adapted to the climate. The house is traditionally said to have been occupied by Dorothy Walton, a widow of a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The house was located on the original Lot 187 of Pensacola as surveyed by Vincente S. Pentado, a Spanish officer, in 1813. It was recorded on October 3, 1810, that Gabriel Hernandez sold the lot for \$100 to Merced del Junco, wife of Vincente Folch y Juan. The deed noted that "Lot 187 in Town of Pensacola, containing 100 feet 9 in. front on the West side of the Public Washing place 176 feet 1 in. on the Eastern side and 177 feet on the Western side, cornering said lot on Romana and Barcelona Sts. It being same grantor obtained by virtue of a grant from the Intendant of this Province, Don Juan Ventura Morales...."

On April 10, 1812, it was recorded that Merced del Junco sold the property to Eufrosine Hinard for \$150. Eufrosine Hinard, "a free woman of color," sold the lot to William McPherson and Mathew Ana on September 6, 1815, for \$120. The lot was then recorded as 126 feet deep. Mathew Hanna sold half the lot in October of 1820 to John Brosnahan for \$150.

HABS  
FLA  
17-PENSA  
11-

In the Proceedings of the Land Commissioners of July 17, 1822, Manuel del Barco, Gabriel Hernandez, Matthew Hanna and Guillermo McPherson claimed Lot 187. Additional claims were made April 19, 1823. It appears that Joseph E. Murell, one of Maria Murell's heirs, and Josephine McPherson secured and held title to the property when it was recorded January 5, 1831, that they partitioned the property. Josephine McPherson received the eastern portion of Lot 187 fronting 54'- $\frac{1}{2}$ " on Romana Street and extending 126' deep. Murell received the western half fronting 50'- $4\frac{1}{2}$ " on Romana Street and 126' on Barcelona Street. Josephine McPherson sold her eastern portion of Lot 187 to Francisco Moreno on February 20, 1834, for \$60. Moreno and his wife, Margarita, sold the property to James Gonzalez, recorded on February 12, 1838, for \$350. Gonzalez and his wife, Fanny, sold the eastern half of Lot 187 to William P. Inerarity for \$1600 on November 27, 1856.

The Inerarity heirs sold the eastern half of Lot 187 to Anthony Headsby on July 15, 1872, for \$750. Headsby's heirs sold it to D. Perry, recorded April 9, 1901, who sold it to J. M. L. Gillis in 1903. The property was sold to others, passed through a foreclosure and continued to be re-sold until T. T. Wentworth, Jr. purchased it in February of 1932 from Henrietta Wilson.

Wentworth deeded to property to the City of Pensacola in 1964 with the provision that it be moved and restored. The house was moved to its present location in 1966. The city deeded the property to the Dorothy Walton Foundation who in turn deeded it to the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board of Trustees in 1967. The Preservation Board was instrumental in the restoration which was completed in 1968.

2. Date of erection: Though the traditional building date of the house has been indicated as being 1810, it appears from the abstract that the house probably was built after 1838 and before 1856.
3. Architect: Unknown
4. Original plans and construction information: None known
5. Alterations and additions: The house was completely restored in 1967 and 1968 under the direction of the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board.
6. Important old views: None known

- B. Historic Events and Persons Connected with the Structure: It HABS is traditionally indicated that this house was the residence FLA of Dorothy Walton, widow of a signer of the Declaration of 17-PENSA Independence from Georgia, George Walton. Mrs. Walton is 11- believed to have lived in the house sometime between 1825 and 1832 when she died. The naming of the house for Dorothy Walton may be a misnomer. The title abstract to the 137 West Romana Street property does not list her as an owner, therefore she would have been a tenant resident. The abstract does indicate, though, that James Gonzalez paid \$350 for his half of the lot in 1838 and sold it in 1856 for \$1600. This suggests that Gonzalez built the house after acquiring the property.

James Gonzalez, the son of Don Manuel Gonzalez, was a Pensacola businessman who was a licensed auctioneer from 1837 to 1855, a Mobile stage line agent in 1845 and a city tax collector. In addition he owned a general merchandise store, in partnership with his brother, on Palafox Street. James Gonzalez is probably best known for the brick yard which he operated on Laura Point after 1850. Many examples of bricks marked "J Gonzalez" or "J Gonzalez PFB" are frequently found in Pensacola.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources: Records, Clerk of Courts Office, Escambia County Court House, Pensacola, Florida.
2. Secondary and published sources: Leora M. Sutton, The Walton House, Pensacola: 1968.

Prepared by Rodd L. Wheaton  
Architect, HABS  
1972  
with abstract research  
by Linda V. Ellsworth  
1972

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Description: This one-story house, which is rectangular in plan, has a wide central hallway with two rooms at each side and porches at the east and west elevations. The condition of the fabric is excellent having been completely restored after relocation at its present site. Some original structural and finish materials remain.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The house measures 37'-1" x 40'-10", including the porches, with the long dimension parallelling the street. The three bay front and rear elevations are symmetrical.
2. Foundations: Brick piers
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The braced wood frame construction is sheathed on the gable ends with weatherboarding. Flush horizontal siding is used at the porch elevations with corner boards which receive the weatherboarding. All the siding and trim is painted white.
4. Porches: Changes in pitch of the roof slopes allow inset porches, with floor boards parallelling the structure, at the east and west elevations. The eaves are supported on boxed beams and square wood columns set at the east elevation with a balustrade of a round rail, rectangular balusters and beveled bottom rail. Flanking the wood steps are square newels, with plain caps, which receive the railings of the central bay. The porch ceiling is sheathed in flush siding.
5. Chimneys: Two brick chimneys, perpendicular to each other, have corbelled caps and brick cowls and rise from the rear slope of the roof.
6. Openings:
  - a. Windows and shutters: The east windows of the front facade have twelve-over-eight light sash. Nine-over-six light sash fill the remaining first floor window openings, while six-over-six light sash fill the attic window openings. The sash are hung in frames trimmed with a plain board having a drip board at the head and unmoulded sills. There are no shutters or blinds.
  - b. Doorways and doors: Front and rear double doors with similar trim open into the central hall. Each leaf has four traditional raised panels.
7. Roof:
  - a. Shape and covering: The gable roof, with its pitch changes over the porches, is wood shingled.
  - b. Cornice and eaves: The roof rafters extend beyond the east, front porch fascia and are cut in a cyma reversa

profile, while the projecting rafter ends of the west, rear porch are squared. A plain barge board extends up the gable rakes.

HABS  
FLA  
17-PENSA  
11-

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The wide central hallway, which opens directly onto the front and rear porches, separates large south rooms and smaller north rooms. Access to the unfinished attic is provided by a hatch in the ceiling of the north-east room.
2. Stairways: There are no stairways.
3. Flooring: There are wood board floors.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The interior of the house is plastered.
5. Doorways and doors: Simple trim, matching that of the window openings, is hung with traditional four panel doors.
6. Decorative features: The fireplaces, which have brick hearths and modern firebrick fireboxes, have wood mantel-pieces and surrounds. The firebox of the south chimney opens into each room.
7. Notable hardware: None of importance
8. Mechanical equipment: None of importance

- D. Site and Surroundings: This structure, as it is relocated, faces east and west with the north gabled elevation parallelling East Zaragoza Street. The Moreno Cottage (HABS No. FLA-204) is immediately to the south and Old Christ Church (HABS No. FLA-146) is across Zaragoza Street.

Prepared by F. Blair Reeves, AIA  
HABS---Pensacola  
September 6, 1968

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project, sponsored by the Pensacola Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission, now known as the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board of Trustees, in cooperation with the Historic American Buildings Survey, was recorded during the summer of 1968 in Pensacola under the direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS; Professor F. Blair Reeves,

AIA (University of Florida), Project Supervisor; and Student Assistant Architects John O. Crosby (University of Florida), David L. Van de Ven, Jr. (Texas Technological College), and Edward Bondi, Jr. (University of Florida). The historical information was prepared by Professor Samuel Proctor (University of Florida), by Assistant Historian Linda V. Ellsworth (Historic Pensacola Preservation Board), and by Rodd L. Wheaton (Architect, HABS) who edited all the data in 1972.

HABS  
FLA  
17-PENSA  
11-